

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR: MU 3063 STUDIO PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES		3/0/3								
(Formerly MU 3163 RECORDING STUDIO TECHNIQUES II (Revised Fall 2022))		UK LEVEL: 5 UK CREDITS:15								
PREREQUISITES:	None									
CATALOG DESCRIPTION:	An introduction to music production, arranging and composition using computer-based studio, synthesizers, samplers and outboard equipment. Topics covered include programming, sequencing, audio processing using equalizers, dynamic processors and effects, stereo and surround mixing techniques, and use of software-based virtual instruments.									
RATIONALE:	In this course, students go from learning the step-by-step basics of music production to arranging and producing their own original and third-party compositions. Designed for anyone interested in producing music on their computer, regardless of style, this course provides an overview of the wide range of tools available to the modern musician. Through hands-on exercises and projects, students experience the process of producing a piece of music with a computer, from developing the original musical idea through distributing a final mix.									
LEARNING OUTCOMES:	After successfully completing this course students should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate an understanding of the process of recording and producing music. 2. Apply computer studio-based skills and understanding for production of music. 3. Create songs using online software and contemporary instruments. 4. Arrange and remix existing music. 									
METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:	In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lecture and seminar sessions exploring concepts and principles; • structured practical work in the recording studio; • extensive private study using freely available software on a student's own computer; • peer feedback workshops; • use of a learning management system (Blackboard) where instructors post lecture notes, assignment instructions, announcements and additional resources; • students are encouraged to make full use of their instructor's office hours, where they can ask questions, see their assigned work results and/or go over lecture material; • support from the Student Academic Support Services (SASS), who offer one-to-one and group workshop sessions to support the development of academic and study skills. 									
ASSESSMENT:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Summative:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A practical arrangement of a song or other work, featuring some studio recorded material. Accompanied by a critical commentary. </td> <td align="center">30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A complete studio production making creative and original use of tools and resources to produce a complete polished production. Accompanied by a critical commentary. </td> <td align="center">70%</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Formative:</td> </tr> </table>		Summative:		First Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A practical arrangement of a song or other work, featuring some studio recorded material. Accompanied by a critical commentary. 	30%	Final Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A complete studio production making creative and original use of tools and resources to produce a complete polished production. Accompanied by a critical commentary. 	70%	Formative:	
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INDICATIVE READING:	<p>REQUIRED READING: Nahmani, David, <i>Logic Pro X 10.5 - Apple Pro Training Series: Professional Music Production</i>, Pearson Education, 2020.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED READING: Ballou, Glen, <i>Handbook for Sound Engineers</i>, Routledge, 2015. Gibson, David, <i>The Art of Mixing: A Visual Guide to Recording, Engineering, and Production</i>, Routledge, 2018.</p>		
COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:	<p>Students will be expected to make use of a learning management system (Blackboard) and have an active ACG email account. All written work should follow current MLA standards for formatting, style and citation.</p>		
SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:	<p>Students will need to use Microsoft Word or Open Office for word processing and submission of written work. They will also need a functioning ACG student account and internet connection for access to online music databases (available on campus and at home through the ACG library) and newspaper websites.</p> <p>The course will make extensive use of a recording studio facility on campus, which will contain specialist sound engineering software. At the time of writing the studios at ACG are based around Apple's Logic (www.apple.com/logic-pro)</p> <p>As an indicative guide, at the time of writing the following software packages form the core support to the course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Izotope RX 9 (https://www.izotope.com/en/products/rx.html) • Celemony Melodyne (https://www.celemony.com/en/melodyne/what-is-melodyne) 		
WWW RESOURCES:	<p>A wide range of resources are available under the general field of sound engineering. A selection will be used from the following categories of sites, with students directed to specific resources during the course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment manufacturers of equipment found in the studio (with a special focus on obtaining and reading user manuals and user support guides). • Apple Logic Pro X Resources https://www.apple.com/logic-pro/resources/ • Universal Audio Apollo X https://www.uaudio.com • Freeware AU plug-ins https://www.audiopluginsforfree.com • Celemony Melodyne https://www.celemony.com/en/start • Izotope RX 9 https://www.izotope.com/en/products/rx.html 		

**INDICATIVE
CONTENT:**

Extensive practical sessions will take place in the recording studio facility, in combination with supporting theoretical sessions.

Practical Studio Skills

- Digital Mixing configuration, routing and operation
- Metering
- Equalization
- Dynamic Range Processing
- Audio Restoration
- MIDI Programming and Controllers
- Software Instruments
- Notation
- Pitch and Time Editing
- Effects Processing
- Mastering Principles

Theoretical Understanding

- Principles of Digital Audio and Audio Formats
- MIDI protocol
- Musical language and its translation into computer software
- Principles of Music and Sound for Film / TV / Games / Digital Media
- Arranging and composing as translated within the computer